of policy their responsibility. It is not power which Parliament lacks, any more than Louis XVI or Nicholas II lacked power; rather the will to exercise it. Power without resolution is as vain as desire without virility, and evokes as scant respect. The proportion of voters who care to register their votes has fallen sometimes as low as thirty per cent, and since 1932 has rarely been above fifty per cent. At times it has even seemed that Parliament itself was eager to invite ridicule, as decaying things become fantastic as though to expedite decay. Perhaps sensing this, a member, Mr. Wedgwood Benn, complained that the Minister of Labour had referred to parliamentary proceedings as a 'performance', and demanded the withdrawal of a remark so offensive in its implications. The last occasion on which the House of Commons (like an army sleeping with its haversack on its back) sat all night, was devoted to an acrimonious discussion of a contributory pensions scheme for Members of Parliament.

In one respect at least there has been a drastic changeover of opinion. In 1930, if the Foreign Secretary, Arthur Henderson, in an unguarded moment referred slightingly to the Treaty of Versailles, it was Mr. Lloyd George who, warmly applauded by Conservatives, indignantly demanded an explanation, and if accusations were made that Germany was secretly rearming, it was Labour members who laughed scornfully, convinced that such lying accusations were put about by armament manufacturers and war-mongers for interested motives; whereas now, if the Treaty of Versailles has any upholders, they are to be

found among those who were formerly most bitter in their denunciation of it,[22] and if Clemenceau returned to earth, it

[22] There are many examples of this reversal of roles, it being generally true that the more pro-German immediately after the War, the more anti-German now. For instance, Mr. Mowrer, the well-known American corres-* pendent, describes how he went to Germany *spilling over with sympathy*, after having 'expended a great deal of emotion deploring the victors' treat-ment of the vanquished*, but how very soon *his sympathetic glands had nearly gone dry', and he came to see that there was something to be said for those who wanted to drive home the Allied victory to the utmost. Similarly, Mr. Robert Dell, *Manchester Guardian* correspondent, who was